

# Press Release

6<sup>th</sup> March 2014

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## Government committed towards Valletta's regeneration

Valletta 2018 Foundation chairman Jason Micallef has expressed his satisfaction that the government is taking Valletta's regeneration seriously. The government is truly committed towards the regeneration of the capital in terms of cultural, as well as social and economic aspects.

Jason Micallef addressed a press conference together with the Parliamentary Secretary for Culture and Local Government Jose Herrera, the Parliamentary Secretary for Planning and the Simplification of Administrative Processes, Michael Farrugia and the Principal Permanent Secretary Mario Cutajar, regarding three expressions of interest issued by the government for the regeneration of Valletta.

Jason Micallef described Valletta as a unique city and the title of the European Capital of Culture gives the perfect opportunity to carry out projects and initiatives that breathe new life into Valletta. These projects must form part of a holistic and long term vision that lead us to the year 2018 and beyond. He highlighted that the Valletta 2018 Foundation insists on the legacy aspect of the European Capital of Culture to truly benefit from the opportunities it brings about.

He also commended the expedient manner with which the government plans to execute these projects and the fact that special attention is being given to Strait Street and the old Valletta market (is-Suq). The two projects will be central towards the life Valletta merits.

The three expressions of interest launched are:

- Master Plan for Valletta and the Environs
- The Regeneration of Strait Street
- Ideas and Proposals for the use of the old Valletta market (is-Suq)

The Parliamentary Secretary for Culture and Local Governance José Herrera, emphasised it is the government's priority to regenerate Valletta. Over the past 10 years, success was registered in this regard which has resulted in an improved social life in Valletta in the evenings and an increase in the value of property in Valletta, he said.

The Parliamentary Secretary for Planning and the Simplification of Administrative Processes Michael Farrugia, explained the government's vision and the need for innovative ideas which would have a positive economic impact while creating employment.

The Principal Permanent Secretary, Mario Cutajar, pointed out the need for such processes as people want to see a livelier city. They also believe the environment in Valletta can be improved while the city continues to serve its function. The government is open to all ideas, Mr Cutajar said.

The expressions of interest can be downloaded from [www.gpd.gov.mt](http://www.gpd.gov.mt). The closing date for proposals is 14th April 2014 at noon.